

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8 with the following amended paragraph:

When the beam guiding chamber 3 is flushed with gas, the pressure of the gas in the beam guiding chamber exerts a force on the valve disk 15, and when a certain critical gas pressure is exceeded the valve opens. The cooperation between the gas pressure in the beam guiding chamber 3 and the weight of the valve disk 15 opens or closes the pressure relief valve 11. Thus, when the gas pressure within the beam guiding chamber 3 is below the critical pressure, the valve disk 15 is supported on a seal 18 and seals the beam guiding chamber 3 to the outside atmosphere. When the gas pressure within the beam guiding chamber 3 is above the critical pressure, the contact point between valve disk 15 and seal 18 is broken, the valve disk 15 is lifted from the seal 18, and the system pressure is reduced because gas leaks out of the beam guiding chamber 3 through the annular gap between the valve disk 15 and the seal 18. No additional energy is required for actuating the pressure control valve. The pressure relief or pressure control valve represents a "passive" component. The force for opening the pressure relief valve can additionally be influenced via the weight of the moveable pin 16 ~~a pin in accordance with claim 4.~~